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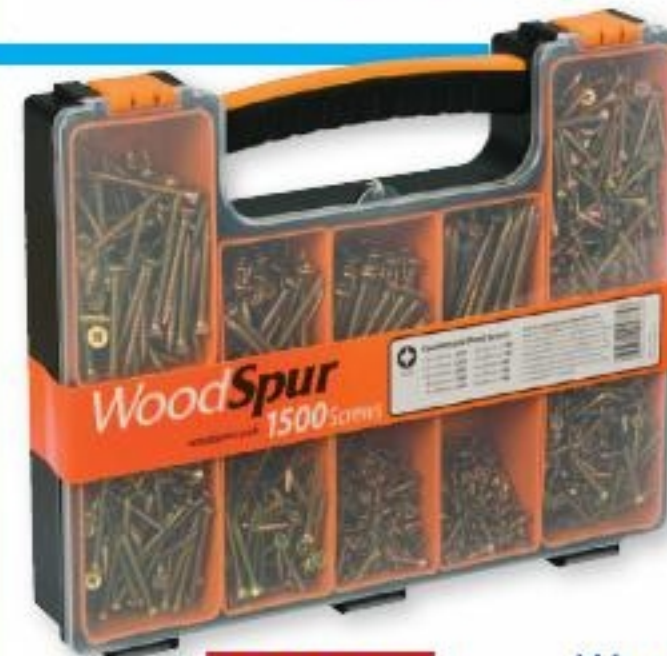
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SCHOOLS' OUT - FOR SOME...



Strike action forces kids to stay at home

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

SIXTEEN schools in Basingstoke and Deane will be closed today as part of strike action by teachers' unions.

The National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) are striking today over a long-running row over pay.

As the Observer went to press, six of the 16 schools are only partially closed.

Four Lanes in Chineham is open to years 3 and 4, while classes 3, 4 and 8 at Limington House School in Basingstoke are the only ones from the school to be closed down.

Years 5 and 6 pupils at St Mary's C of E Junior School in Old Basing should attend as usual, with only Years 3 and 4 closed.

Students in year 9 at Bishop Challoner School will attend a school trip, while Testbourne in Whitechurch will be open to Year 7 and some of year 11.

Winklebury Junior School has music and ICT Lessons as normal, and pupils from the school's Oak class should go in as normal.

Full school closures will take place at Merton Junior School, Oakley C of E Junior School, the

Vyne Community School and Kempshott Junior School.

Basingstoke's Kings Furlong Junior School, Hurst Community College in Tadley, Grangeside School in Basingstoke and Hatch Warren Junior school will also be closed, as will Saxon Wood in Rooksdown and Basingstoke's Costello School.

Hampshire County Council has advised teachers against the move, and said it was hard to predict the impact of the strike.

Councillor Peter Edgar, executive member for Education said: "We do not believe strike action helps children's education."

"I hope the decision of unions to ask their members to take part in an industrial day of action does not lead to widespread disruption."

"This dispute is not with the county council but with the Government over changes to teachers' pay, pensions and conditions."

"Any decisions to close schools will be for individual head teachers and their governing bodies."

"They will have to decide whether they have sufficient staff to enable them to open the school safely and maintain a full or revised curriculum."



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See page 3

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Blind for a day to raise awareness

A BASINGSTOKE woman donned a blindfold for a day in order to raise money for charity, by experiencing what it is like to be blind.

Laura Kerwood, a voluntary activity worker at Basingstoke Voluntary Services, performed the feat as part of the BVS' disability awareness day last Thursday.

"I have met a few blind people, and it just touched me how they went about everything," said

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Laura, 27.

"I just couldn't imagine being blind, and that's how I came up with the idea.

"I was a bit worried in case people took offence, but a I spoke to a few blind people and my manager, and they were all for it.

Laura revealed she put on the blindfold at 8.30am on Thursday morning, and her grandmother came round shortly after to supervise her making breakfast.

She also met with the Mayor,

Councillor Dan Putty, and went for a walk around the town with her guide, Lee.

The day proved to be real challenge, and Laura said there were times when it almost got too much, but she has learned so much from the experience.

"I had a panic attack when we went to get food in McDonald's, and I really wanted to take the blindfold off - but Lee talked me out of it," she said.

"What I've learned from the experience is that I know that I'm going to volunteer with the blind.

"I've learned so much - it was a great experience but also horrific and terrifying - I've never

felt fear like it.

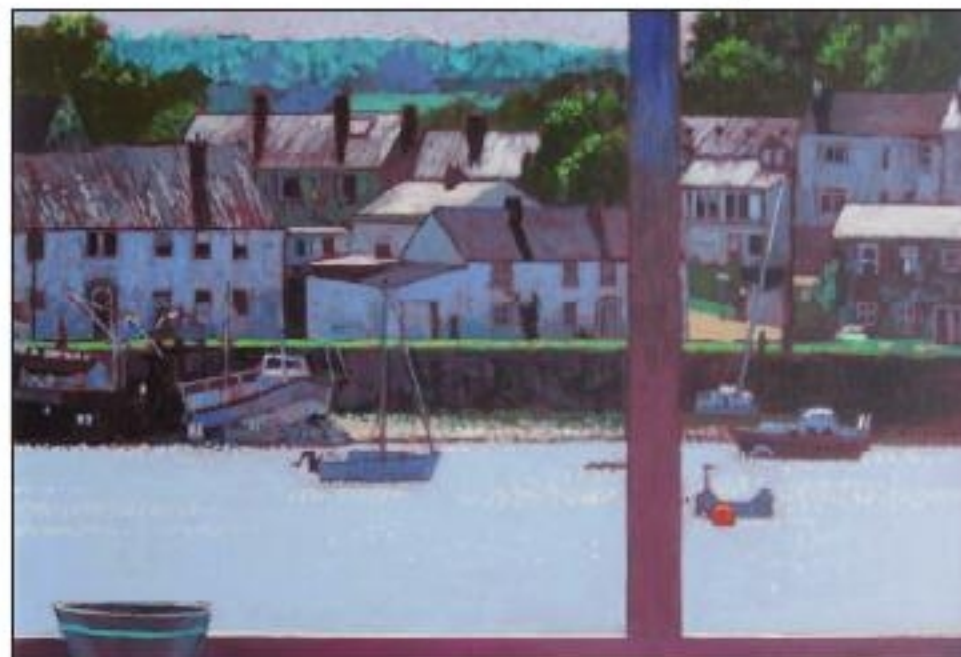
"I'm quite an outgoing person, but I just didn't want to talk - I just wanted to hide in the corner and not say anything. It was very strange."

So far, she has raised over £250 - this will be split equally between blind awareness and funds for Help For Jayden - the charity set up for toddler Jayden Wilson.

Four-year-old Jayden, who lives in Beggarwood, has an inoperable brain tumour and his family have been told he has months to live.

His family are raising funds to make the rest of the time he has left as special as possible.

Tadley artist gets a special visit from the Mayor...



Four arrested after stabbing in Chineham

POLICE are appealing for information after a man was stabbed twice at a house in Chineham on Tuesday morning.

Officers were called to a disturbance at a house in St Joseph's Crescent at 7.30am, following reports of a disturbance outside the property.

The 27-year-old victim was taken to Basingstoke hospital with stab wounds to his chest, but his condition is not thought to be life threatening.

It is believed that three other men were involved in this incident and may have run off from the scene.

Detective Sergeant Paula James said: "There would have been a lot of noise in the street early in the morning which may have attracted attention. Did you see or hear anything?"

"Do you have any information which may assist this investigation?"

Four Basingstoke people, a 19-year-old man, a 35-year-old man, a 17-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl, have been arrested in connection with the incident. They are currently in police custody.

A TADLEY-BASED artist has spoken of his delight at his exhibition receiving a visit from the Mayor.

Councillor Dan Putty is supporting a new arts initiative, and visited Mike Hall at his studio in Tadley as part of Artists at Work 2013.

"There are such talented people in our borough and surrounding areas. I am enormously pleased to see what the opportunity to see what they really do," said Cllr Putty.

Mike, who lives at Bassetts, White Hart Lane, added: "I was delighted to be able to welcome the Mayor to my studio and show him my work."

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Cubism in the wind for record-breaking dad!

JAMES Wilson is now the proud holder of a rather unusual world record.

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James, 47, performed the challenge on Tuesday at Airkix Indoor Skydiving in Basingstoke, and completed the feat in three minutes and 16 seconds. And he is not quite sure how it all happened.

"I know the owner - we were just sitting down chatting really and I mentioned I could do the Rubik's cube," he said. "And one

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

thing led to another."

"We thought about trying to do the challenge in the wind tunnel, and then that escalated to see if there was world record for it."

James and his daughter are regulars at the centre, and he said there were one or two complications in the logistics of the challenge.

"I've had a study and practise in the last two weeks on how to do it properly.

But obviously in the tunnel it is a lot harder.

"The first time we tried it we

attached it to my wrist - it would go up in the fans and probably into little pieces.

"But that got in the way too much, so I just had to be really careful. The record is a little bit of a weird one - it's not exactly the 100m!"

He added that people have already contacted him about trying to break the new record.



James Wilson in action at the Basingstoke Airkix centre



Council set to stick it to chewing gum

WAR is being waged on chewing gum and ground-in grime in a deep clean of the Top of the Town area in Basingstoke.

The work has started in London Road and Winchester Street, and will move on to Castons Walk, Joices Yard, Potters Street, Church Street and Wote Street.

The £18,000 clean-up work is part of the council's Basingstoke Town Centre Programme to improve the area.

The council's Deputy Leader Cllr Ranil Jayawardena said: "We want to bring back real pride in our historic town centre.

"Giving the pavements in the streets leading into the Market Place a really good clean is one of the ways we are investing in a better environment for the area.

"We hope people will dispose of their gum in the bins in the future to keep the pavements cleaner - and our patrolling officers will work to ensure that this happens."

It is due to be completed by Wednesday 6 November.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact the Newsdesk

on 01235 516930

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Group adopts Minerals and Waste plan

THE Hampshire Minerals and Waste plan has been formally adopted by all partners.

This means future planning applications for minerals and waste development will be assessed and determined on the basis of the policies within it.

The aim of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is to protect the county's environment and communities.

As well as this, it hopes to support Hampshire's economy through the sustainable management of minerals and waste development.

Councillor Seán Woodward, executive member for Environment at Hampshire County Council, said the move was 'crucial'.

"The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan will play a crucial role in protecting our environment and supporting communities over the next 20 years.

This includes ensuring the local economy is supported by enabling an adequate supply of minerals and sustainably managing Hampshire's waste.

"The responsible approach we have taken will safeguard the

future of Hampshire rather than endangering some of the county's most vulnerable communities, nature conservation sites and landscapes.

"It is about ensuring the right development in the right place at the right time.

"In preparing the Plan, the effects on areas around the identified sites have been fully assessed.

"Any future applications for development will be considered on their own merit and determined on the basis of the policies within this Plan."

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Young carers charity welcomes reform bill

A BASINGSTOKE charity that provides information and support for young carers has welcomed government reform that target the needs of a carer's entire family.

Prior to the change to the Children and Families Bill, when a child was identified as a young carer, the needs of them alone were identified.

Now, after education secretary Michael Gove announced the change last Tuesday (October 8), the needs of the whole family will be considered when help is provided.

This will trigger intervention from both Children and Adult Support Services assessing why the child is caring, what needs to be changed and what would help the family to prevent children from taking on this extra responsibility.

The aim of this is to give better support to the family as a whole, as well as reducing the amount of care being done by the young carer.

The manager of Basingstoke Young Carers (BYC) Ed Ives-Wara, hopes the change will provide more consistency in dealing with cases.

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"It has often been a struggle to work between Children and Adult services as you would have to refer the family members separately," he said.

"This would mean that communication between each service breaks down.

"We are hoping that now this amendment to the bill has been released, there will be a consistent approach with communication to how we deal with families as a whole.

"In turn, this will enable services to put measures in place, to decrease the caring impact on the young carer in a joined up way through Children's and Adult Support Services involvement."

According to figures obtained by a May census, over 160,000 children in England are caring for either a parent or sibling – a 20 per cent rise from the last figures taken in 2001.

The BYC has been able to implement a schools co-ordinator and a family support worker, who work together to help and support the young carers and their families in Basingstoke and Deane.

Alton College gets keys to tech building

THE principal of Alton College has received the keys to its new state-of-the-art design and technology building.

Work initially began on the

Sonardyne Centre in 2008, but was halted after the Government terminated the Building Colleges for the Future Programme.

However, the college raised the £2.5million needed to restart the project by setting up a 'Building Futures' campaign.

The work was carried out by Alton-based contractor Kitchin Ltd.

The college's principal, Jane Machell, said: "I'd like to express my sincere thanks to the team who have completed a fantastic project in a short timescale.

"The students will now benefit from state-of-the-art facilities and resources, this will enable us to teach the latest techniques in computer aided design and manufacture so that they can become the innovative engineers of the future."

Efforts are now being turned to raise the remaining £300k required to equip the centre to include CAD, CAM and 3D printing facilities.

If you are interested in donating to the appeal for equipping the centre, please get in touch via buildingfutures@altoncollege.ac.uk.

The centre will be open to the public at the next Alton College Open Evening on Tuesday 26th November, 3.30-8pm.

• Principal Jane Machell is given the keys



Crews battle large blaze in countryside

FIREFIGHTERS from Hartley Wintney and Fleet were among a team of four crews called out to tackle a field fire on Thursday.

The blaze, attended by more than 20 firefighters, covered land on Hazeley Heath the size of five football pitches.

The fire proved to be one incident in a busy night for Hampshire Fire and Rescue.

Head of response Andy Bowers said the public should take extra care with winter approaching.

"The wide range of incidents dealt with overnight show how well trained and equipped our firefighters are, so they are able to deal with whatever scenario they are faced with.

"Despite this being an extremely busy and challenging night for the Service, we were able to respond and assist the public quickly and safely right across the county.

"However, we would obviously prefer to prevent these types of incidents occurring in the first place.

"With winter now approaching, we would urge the public to take extra precautions, both at home and on the road."

Information on staying safe this winter can be found on our website www.hantsfire.gov.uk and through our Facebook and Twitter.

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Councils pledge energy support

A GROUP campaigning for the proposed Bullington Cross wind farm to be community-owned has called for authorities to spend wiser on energy policies.

The Hampshire Renewable Energy Co-operative claims over £1.5 billion is being spent in Basingstoke and Deane, Test Valley and Winchester each year on energy.

The group have labelled this as a "huge drain" on the local economy, and called for local councils to implement policies encouraging areas to generate their own energy.

Martin Heath, spokesman for HREC, said: "This is a huge drain on the local economy."

"It is a great shame as in North Hampshire we are blessed with huge resources from the sun and the wind."

"With some sensible investment we could, in Hampshire, easily generate 20 per cent of our energy needs from local, freely available, renewable resources."

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The group claim this would save millions of pounds per year, boost the area's industry and "ensure the profits are kept for local people".

Mr Heath added: "Over time we could generate more than 50 per cent of our energy needs from local renewables."

"It's about time that our local councils put policies in place to encourage this and we, as individuals and companies started investing in locally owned renewable generation."

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC's) cabinet member for the Environment and Climate Change, Cllr Robert Donnell, said: "Whilst we support renewable energy schemes and are keen to work with organisations, where appropriate we also need to balance this against planning considerations of individual applications of which the wind farm at Bullington Cross is currently in the process."

And Hampshire County Council's executive member for Economy,

Transport and the Environment, Cllr Sean Woodward, added:

"Community energy generation is an important element of Hampshire County Council's energy strategy."

"In relation to its own energy consumption the County Council is focussing on reducing its carbon consumption by 20 per cent by 2015."

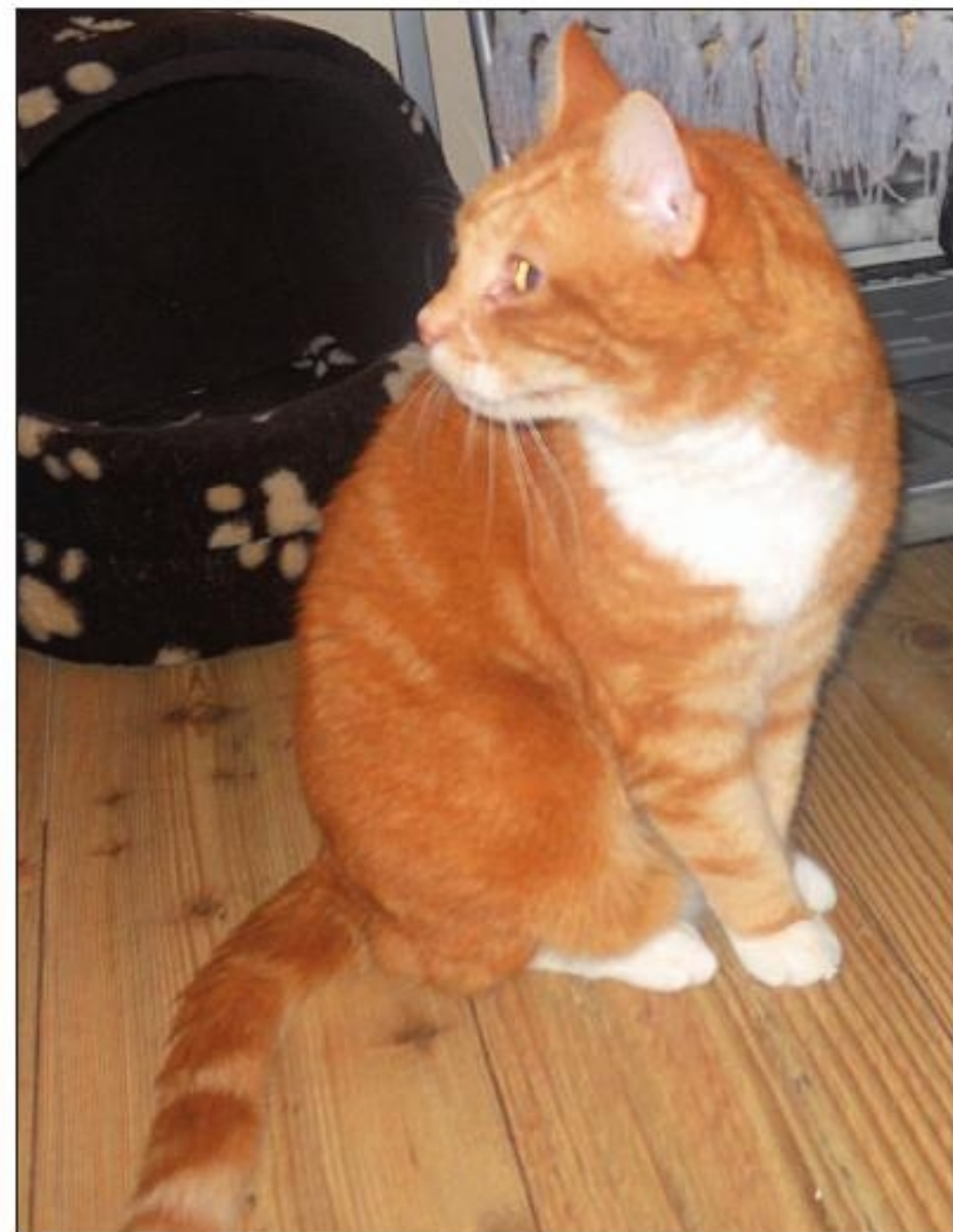
"Through piloting alternative low carbon energy sources such as the installation of biomass boilers and solar energy and the implementation of projects including the successful 'Insulate Hampshire' we have delivered significant reductions in carbon emissions and energy use across Hampshire."

"The county council developed three Energy Recovery facilities that already produce enough energy to power the equivalent of 53,000 homes."

"We are also seeking new opportunities to become involved in generating and supplying low cost and low carbon energy to the Hampshire community."

"This would support local economic growth, increase energy security as well as reduce overheads and increase efficiencies."

Cat charity to hold Autumn Fair



• Rufus is one of 20 cats currently being cared for by the Basingstoke and Deane branch of Cats Protection

THE Basingstoke and Deane branch of national cat charity Cat Protection is holding an Autumn Fair in Tadley on Saturday.

There will be gift stalls, a raffle, homemade cakes among the attractions at the Ambrose Allen Centre on Franklin Avenue, between 1pm and 3.30pm.

Hilary Wells, branch co-ordinator said: "The fair is a great opportunity to have some fun whilst supporting the charity which finds new homes for the many unwanted and abandoned cats that come into its care."

"Entry is 50p or a donation of a tin of cat food, so please come along and give us your support!"

The Basingstoke and District Branch is currently caring for more than 20 cats looking for homes, including Rufus (pictured).

To find out more about the fair or to offer a cat a home, please call the Basingstoke and District Branch on 0845 177 1364, email the branch on adoptacat-basingstoke@hotmail.co.uk or visit the website at www.basingstoke.cats.org.uk.

News Bites

Death at station

POLICE are not treating the death of a man at Basingstoke train station on Monday as suspicious.

Officers from British Transport Police were called to the town's station at 1.09pm after receiving reports the man had been hit by a train.

The man, 23-year-old Stephen McCormick, was declared dead at the scene, and an inquest has been opened and adjourned.

The incident sparked the closure of the station, with all services delayed by 90 minutes.

Inquest opened

AN INQUEST has been opened and adjourned in the case of a 21-year-old man who was found dead in a Popley park on Saturday morning.

Scott Warriner, from Basingstoke, was found after police were called to Popley Community Park in Popley Way at 11.45am.

Suspicious fire

POLICE have arrested a woman after a house fire in Oakridge on Sunday night.

Sixteen firefighters attended the blaze in the front room of a house in Bay Tree Way at 8.30pm.

The woman, 47, and another woman, were treated for smoke inhalation by paramedics.

Police are treating the cause of the fire as suspicious.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact the Newsdesk on 01235 516930 or email news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

News Bites

Equipment stolen

TWO bicycles and a lawnmower have been stolen following a burglary in Basingstoke, after a conservatory door was forced open and a shed broken into.

The incident happened between 8.45am and 5pm at a house in Cliddesden Road on October 3, and police are appealing for witnesses who might have seen suspicious behaviour.

Anyone with information should contact PSI Lauren Howard at Basingstoke Police Station on 101.

Theft of statue



POLICE are appealing for information after a statue worth an estimated £2,000 was stolen from a Burghclere garden overnight between October 5 and 6.

Anyone who has seen the statue, or has been offered it for sale, is encouraged to alert the police by calling PC Nick Beech on 101 with any information.

Council launches drive to stop school skippers

HAMPSHIRE County Council has launched an innovative pilot scheme, which they hope will reduce truancy in the area.

It is part of the Supporting Troubled Families initiative, and the truancy scheme will bring together different agencies, including the police and children's services, to help schools tackle the issue of unauthorised absence.

Over one week, organisations involved will visit the home of an absent child and whose absence hasn't been explained.

It is hoped the home visits will establish any reasons why the child is consistently absent from school, and look to identify support for the family to ensure a significant improvement in attendance.

"Basingstoke has excellent school attendance rates compared to the national average," said Cllr Keith Mans, executive lead member for children's services.

"But just as in other areas of the county, there is a very small minority of children who are persistently absent from school.

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"Through the Supporting Troubled Families Programme, this multi-agency initiative is about focusing on that minority.

"We will be working together with parents to find out the underlying reasons for frequent absence and providing appropriate support to ensure children go to school each day as they should do."

Checks will also be made around shopping centres, parks and recreational areas where young people may congregate when they truant.

If a pupil is caught truanting, their details will be noted and a letter will be sent to the family to explain the legal implications.

Cllr Mans added: "Regular school attendance is crucial to helping ensure a child has the best possible start in life.

"Children who miss school frequently for reasons other than serious illness are at greater risk of falling behind with their studies and not achieving as well in their exams as their peers.

"This in turn can have a negative impact on their future and restrict the range of choices open to them for further education, training and employment."

Police appeal - Have you seen this man?



POLICE have released an e-fit image of a man they want to speak to after a woman was robbed in Basingstoke last month.

The 27-year-old victim was stopped by the man on a path between Doswell Way and Norn Hill on the afternoon of September 27.

He forced her to hand over cash, before punching her in the face and kicking her in the ribs.

The e-fit released shows a white man believed to be in his 40s, wearing a black baseball cap.

PC Tom Prutz said: "This is a very distinctive-looking man. Do you recognise him? Have you seen him in the Basingstoke area? If you have any information which may help to identify him, please contact me as soon as possible."

A 36-year-old man has already been arrested as part of the investigation, and is on bail until November 29.

Call 101 or Crimestoppers with any information.

• The man wanted in connection with the assault on a 27-year-old woman (Picture courtesy of Hampshire Constabulary)

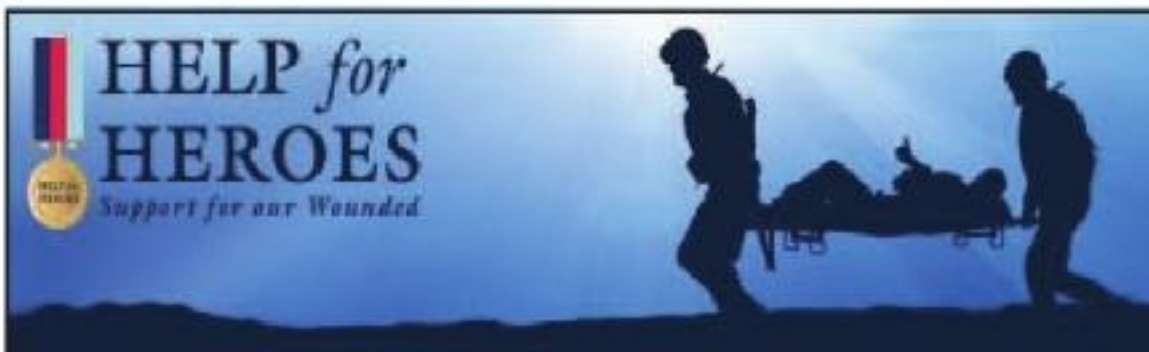
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The new Basingstoke showroom is the first to be refurbished under the company's new name. Academy Home Improvements offer a fantastic product range which includes kitchens, bedrooms, conservatories, orangeries, and doors plus double and triple-glazed windows. For more information please visit www.academyhome.co.uk or be one of the first to call into the new showroom.

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News Bites

Are you a winner?

ST Michael's Hospice has announced the results of its lottery draw from October 11.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 64178 of Brighton Hill, second prize of £100 is awarded to 85262 of Basingstoke, third prize of £50 to 31547 of Baughurst and fourth prize of £20 to 66882 of Basingstoke.

Sixteen prizes of £5 are awarded to tickets 09979, 17362, 21514, 28162, 32848, 34385, 38968, 53329, 55273, 57289, 60742, 61336, 71082, 71964, 77087 and 77854.

Traffic meeting

THE Basingstoke Institute of Advanced Motorists and an ex-traffic officer will share their knowledge for free this Saturday.

Police Officers around the country all learn the same set of skills to get them between jobs with speed and safety in mind.

Visitors to Basingstoke Discovery Centre this weekend will learn that all of these skills can be used in everyday driving.

This is to help understand how cars can be controlled better in all situations, as well as developing self-assessment skills to improve abilities and tackle most driving situations with greater competence.

The talk will highlight how people can develop their own driving skills to become a safer and better motorist.

Two talks will take place - at 10am and 2pm. No advance booking is necessary and entrance is free of charge.

Top cop runs riot at half marathon

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

BASINGSTOKE'S top cop has told of the effort he had to put in to complete the town's half marathon - in full riot gear.

Chief Inspector Steve Wallace - area commander for Basingstoke and Deane, ran the race in three layers of padding and equipment specifically not designed for distance running.

He finished the 13.1-mile course in less than three-and-a-half hours.

"It was a good feeling - it was all about finishing it," he said. "It was about 19 degrees, and the three layers of kit and pads and working hard - overheating was a real possibility."

"But I was relatively pleased with the time."

"The first half was quite a concern as I was getting really, really hot. And there were reports back on control that I was looking in a bad way."

"But I carried on and thankfully made it."

And he thanked the levels of support he has had from colleagues, as well as online pledges from members of the public.

"I had a lot of support in the station, and I had a lot of Twitter support [using the hashtag #ChiefRunsRiot]. I also got some local businesses involved."

Chief Inspector Wallace has raised around £2,000 for the Police Dependents' Trust and Basingstoke-based St Michael's Hospice.

He is a keen marathon runner, but admitted there was a world of difference trying to run long distance with 40 pounds of riot gear on.

Training was also difficult for the chief inspector, due to potential risk of injury.

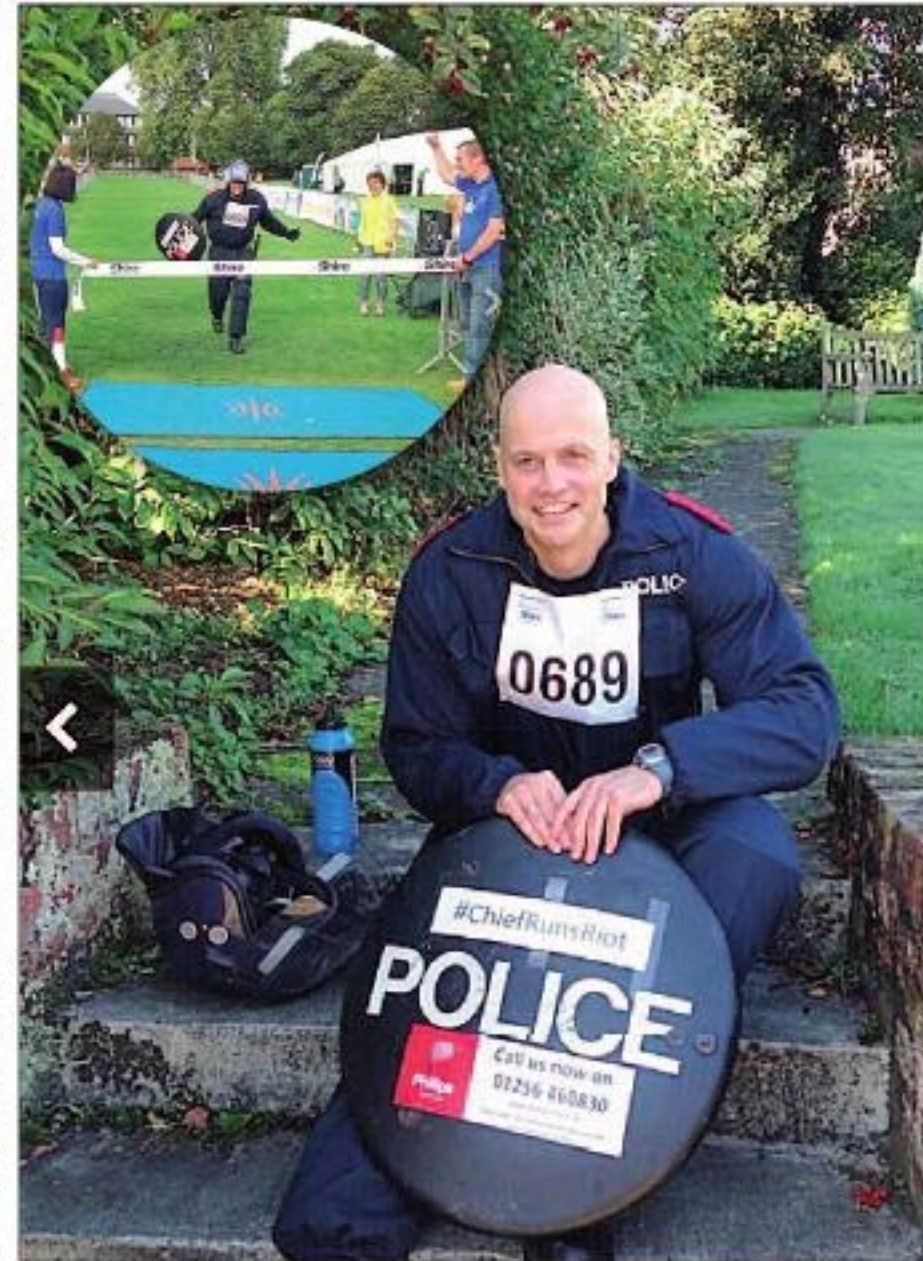
"The boots aren't designed for running and the kit isn't designed for long-term running, so I couldn't do too much training."

"However, I did a full day's riot training a month before, which is quite hard anyway."

"I did 5km in kit on our 500m run loop each night, and that made me realise it was going to be hard."

"Then two weeks before I thought I had to really crank it up, and I did 15km with all the kit on - I'd pretty much had it after that, and I had to do an extra 6km on top of that!"

Despite his achievement, when asked if he would repeat his effort, he said: "I will not be doing it again."



Chief Inspector Steve Wallace in the riot gear and (inset) crossing the line at the end of the Basingstoke half-marathon

'Sing While You Shop' in Tadley store

RESIDENTS and shoppers will have the chance to 'Sing While You Shop', at a Tadley supermarket in December.

Sainsbury's Tadley is hosting a charity carol singing event on December 14 and 15.

The store will switch off its regular music and allow groups of budding singers and choirs to entertain shoppers with a array of festive classics.

The activity is part of a nationwide carol singing charity drive by Sainsbury's.

Any money raised will go towards either Tadley Community Responders, or a charity of the singers' choice.

Sainsbury's Tadley Store Manager Jane Hartnup said: "We're encouraging local residents and groups to get involved."

"Everyone from the area is welcome to apply and we're delighted to offer our customers the chance to help us spread the festivities in-store with some traditional Christmas classics."

Local residents and groups will be booked on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to find out further details, or would like to take part, contact Kim Carwardine, PR Ambassador 01189 819489, pr.tadley@sainsburys.co.uk

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News Bites

Make the switch

SMALL and medium-sized businesses in Basingstoke are set to benefit from a service that will help them find and switch to cheaper energy tariffs.

Switch Hampshire, a county-wide service backed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, will aim to save businesses time and money by assisting them with the process of finding better energy deals.

Cllr Robert Donnell, cabinet member for the environment and climate change, said: "The energy market for businesses can be complex.

"There are many different types of meters and tariffs which are not openly published, making the switching process complicated.

"I hope that local businesses will use the opportunity to register with Switch Hampshire, who can take the hassle out of switching energy suppliers and make much-needed savings during these difficult economic times."

Visit www.hants.gov.uk/switch.

Flat fire appeal

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a fire broke out at a flat in Bramley.

Officers were called to the ground-floor maisonette in Officers Row around 3.30am on October 12 after firefighters had extinguished the blaze.

A 22-year-old man from Basingstoke has been arrested in connection with this incident and released on bail until December 18, pending further enquiries.

Call 101 with information.

BCoT are named on local awards shortlist

BASINGSTOKE College of Technology (BCoT) have been named as a finalist in a prestigious local business awards.

The institution has been selected as one of the leading projects in the Inspire Business Awards, which celebrate the success of local businesses and educational institutions in North Hampshire.

The college has already been named as a finalist in the Green Gown Awards for their EcoBCoT strategic initiative, launched in September 2012.

And earlier this year, the college invested £160,000 in a 400-panel solar PV installation on its existing roof spaces.

The system is generating 15 per cent of the College's annual electricity requirement and a financial return in excess of 13 per cent each year.

This system is the cornerstone of EcoBCoT and demonstrates the College's commitment and determination to become sustainable.

David Moir is the deputy principal for Finance and Resources at BCoT.

He said: "We are delighted to be a finalist in the Sustainable

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Business category in the Inspire Business Awards.

"With over 10,000 learners registered with BCoT each year we can have a significant impact on sustainability throughout the region.

"The College is committed to ensuring that its learners understand the challenges we all face in achieving a sustainable future, as well as promoting this agenda in the wider community.

"The College's vision is 'to inspire every learner to succeed and excel'.

"We want to ensure that each year BCoT learners entering employment will recognise the importance of sustainability in the workplace and bring new and fresh ideas to those businesses."

Elsewhere, the college is also celebrating after being commended by the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) for student achievement.

The college was subject to an assessment session in June.

It is something of a hat-trick for BCoT, who have received similar commendations in December 2012 and March earlier this year.

School kids urged to get snapping away!

HAMPSHIRE County Council is running a photo and caption competition for primary and secondary school students across the county, as part of the My Journey campaign to encourage walking to school.

Children are asked to take a photo that fits under one of five themes and add a caption, with the winners receiving a Culture-all passport, family railcard and

a canvas of their photo for their school.

The number of children travelling to school by means other than the car has increased to 53 per cent in 2012, up from 40 per cent in 2003.

"There are lots of good reasons to take part in this challenge," said Cllr Seán Woodward, executive member for economy, transport and environment.

"I hope that those who take this opportunity to walk, when they would normally travel by car to school, will notice a difference and continue to walk.

"Children do not learn valuable lessons about road safety and how to keep themselves safe by being driven to school every day.

"By walking, we should also find that congestion on our roads, particularly at peak times, decreases."

To take part in the competition, email wtsm.competition@hants.gov.uk by October 31. More information is available on the Hampshire County Council website: www.hants.gov.uk.

• School children are being encouraged to walk to school by Hampshire County Council



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Entertainment

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Shakespeare in schools

Barn dance at Cliddesden Hall

CLIDDESSEN Village Hall is the scene for a barn dance on Saturday evening, featuring music from The Bursledon Village Band.

All tickets cost £12.50 for a 7.30pm start, and includes a Ploughman's supper.

Ring Chris on 01256 468379 for more details about the dance.

Autumn craft fair at Four Lanes

FOUR Lanes Junior School in Chineham are hosting their autumn craft fair on Saturday, with a range of different goods to sample and buy.

Homemade food, gardening goodies and furniture are just some of the things that will be offer on the afternoon, which runs from 2pm to 4pm.

Anyone who is interested in setting up a table for their goods at a cost of £15 should get in touch by emailing flis@sky.com.

THE Shakespeare Schools Festival returns to Basingstoke for the third year on Monday and Tuesday, with eight local schools performing a selection of the Bard's work.

Over 1,000 schools nationally will be staging half-hour abridged performances of some of Shakespeare's plays, with The Haymarket playing host to the schools from around Basingstoke.

Trinity School and Performing Arts College, Kennet School, Kempshott Junior, Park View Junior, Rucstall Primary School, Testbourne Community School, The Wavell School and Aldworth School form the eight that are taking part.

Robin Morgan, marketing manager for the Shakespeare Schools Festival, said: "There's a huge range of emotions from the kids.

"You really see an improvement in confidence, as it's the first professional experience for a lot of them.

"There's a great community movement because there are four schools performing on each individual night, and it's also a good opportunity for the

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

teachers."

Andrea Bath of The Haymarket Theatre added: "We're pleased that so many children from Basingstoke and further afield have been given the opportunity to get involved in the event."

Alice Webster, head of drama at Aldworth School, said: "We've been rehearsing three times a week, and the children are really excited about it. Obviously I'd rather everyone was involved, but we auditioned in June, then over the summer they learnt their lines, and we've been doing three nights a week."

Monday's schedule sees renditions of Hamlet, The Tempest, Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth from the first four schools.

On Tuesday, there are performances of The Tempest, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Henry V and As You Like It.

Both evenings start at 7pm, and tickets cost £8.50. For booking information, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244.



• Students at Aldworth School rehearsing for the show

Manic Merton is at the Anvil...

COMEDIAN Paul Merton is bringing his improv show which is described as a "manic compulsion to show off" to The Anvil this Sunday at 8pm.

The Have I Got News For You regular will be joined by his Impro Chums Mike McShane, Lee Simpson, Richard Vranich and Suki Webster, creating a completely unique comedy show.

Tickets cost £21 for adults and £19 for over 65s and students. For more information and to book tickets, call the Anvil box office on 01256 844244.

What's that in the piano?

THE Piano Doctor is coming to Queen Mary's College today to solve the strange munching noise from inside the instrument.

There's a Monster in my Piano begins at 11am and tells an offbeat jazzy tale of how a highly strung monster scaring all the musical notes in the instrument.

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For more information about the show, call the box office on 01256 418318.

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Lighter side of death

Auditions begin

AUDITIONS for the Silchester Players next pantomime performance, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, are being held in the Village Hall on Tuesday.

Actors of varying ages, backstage staff and singers for adult and junior choruses are required, with the show taking place in January and February next year.

For more information, contact Tim Oliver on 01189 819134 or go to www.silchesterplayers.hampshire.org.uk.

Crossword mad?

IF YOU love crosswords why not take yourself down to the Basingstoke Discovery Centre this Sunday.

Starting at 11.30am, you will have the opportunity to learn how to solve cryptic crosswords from an expert memory researcher and by the end of the workshop you'll be solving one yourself.

The two-hour session costs £15. For more information call 01256 478670 or go to www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc.

COMEDIAN and long-time Never Mind The Buzzcocks team captain Sean Hughes brings his new show to the Bordon Phoenix Theatre this evening, as part of his latest tour *Life Becomes Noises*.

The Irish comic has been in the industry since the 1980s, starting off at the Comedy Store in London with his show *A One Night Stand With Sean Hughes*.

He won the prestigious Perrier Comedy Award for that performance, and has followed it up with numerous gigs ever since.

Sean said: "Comedy was something I wanted to do. I started when I was about 16, and it was something slightly different then."

"It wasn't just a matter of getting on television, I just saw the alternative comedy happening in the eighties and saw people being able to express themselves, and that's the kind of comedy I was getting into really."

One of the things Sean is best known for is his appearances in the first 10 series of *Buzzcocks*, from the show's inception in 1996 until May 2002.

"With *Buzzcocks* you're pretty

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

much doing the same show all the time," said Sean. "So it is what it is, it's fine, it was fun."

"But when I do stand-up, I like to do shows that are about things."

"I put my heart and soul into it when I do it live, while panel shows are just a bit of mucking about."

Life Becomes Noises is Sean dealing with his father's death with a comedy performance, and a hilarious feel-good show about the lighter side of dying.

As soon as this tour finishes in November, Sean begins preparations for his next show *Penguins*, which he will be taking on the road in early 2014.

As a result, he is scheduled to return to North Hampshire on January 31 with a performance at Basingstoke's Central Studio.

Tonight's show in Bordon starts at 8pm, with tickets costing £15. For more details, contact the box office on 01420 472664 or go to www.phoenixarts.co.uk.



• Sean performs *Life Becomes Noises* at the Bordon Phoenix later this evening

Catfish Keith is at the Forge

BLUES singer, songwriter and bottleneck slide guitarist Catfish Keith is performing at The Forge tomorrow evening.

Catfish has made 14 solo albums since he released his first at the age of 22 in 1984. His latest album is entitled *Put on a Buzz* (on Fish Tail).

Tickets are priced at £13.50 for adults and £11.50 for concessions. The show starts at 8pm and to book tickets call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244.

Vampires Rock returns to Anvil

VAMPIRES Rock returns to The Anvil tomorrow night as part of its 10th year on tour celebrations.

Steve Steinman plays the supremely evil Baron Von Rockula, owner of the Live and Let Die club, who is in search of a new bride to cross over to the dark side and live for ever in rock 'n' roll hell.

Rock anthems include 'We Will Rock You', 'Bat Out of Hell' and 'Poison'.

All tickets are priced at £22 plus booking fee. Call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244 to book tickets. The show starts at 7.45pm.

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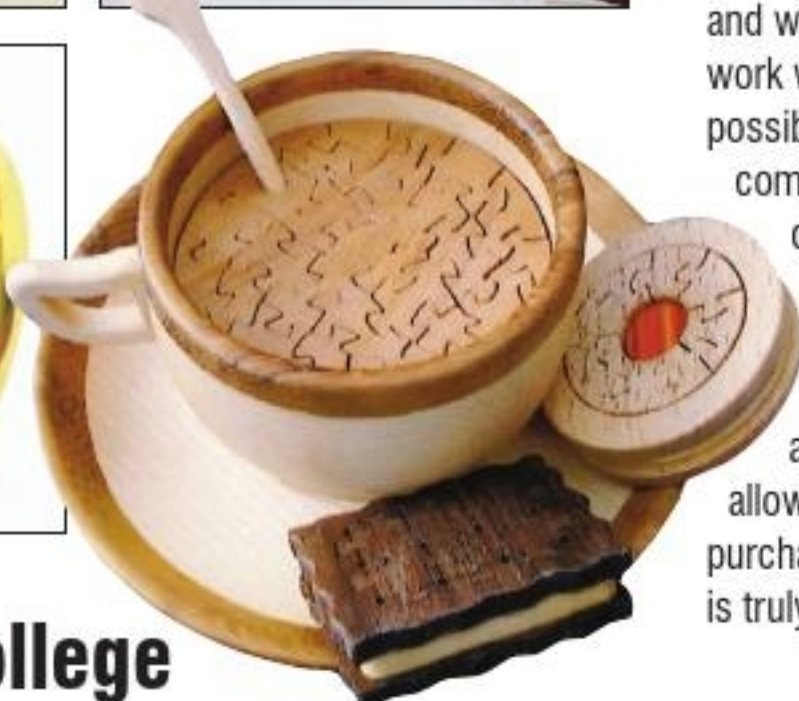
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Win an Escape Plan goodie pack!

The world's foremost expert in prison security is trapped in a brutal black-ops fortress housing the world's most dangerous criminals in **Escape Plan**, a high-octane action-thriller driven by the explosive star power of Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Like all great action films the plot is simple enough not to get in the way of the adrenaline. Ray Breslin (Stallone) is the world's foremost authority on structural security.

After analyzing every high security prison and learning a vast array of survival skills so he can design escape-proof prisons, his skills are put to the test. He's framed and incarcerated in a hi-tech maximum security prison he designed himself. He needs to escape and find the person who put him behind bars and to do that he needs a partner to help him break out. Enter Arnie as top dog inmate Emil Rottmayer...

Escape Plan opens this Friday (18th Oct) across the country and we have ten goodie packs to give away to celebrate this kickass movie. Each pack contains a fitted T-shirt, baseball cap and touch screen gloves and to be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer this simple question:

ESCAPE PLAN



Schwarzenegger and Stallone shared the screen in one of 2012's standout action movies, what was it called?

Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk or on a postcard to Competitions, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR. Competition closes Friday, October 25, 2013.

To 16 December, 2pm - 4pm
Kingsclere Village Hall

ART CLASSES

Drawing and painting with one to one tuition from Bethany Milam. Suitable for both beginners and intermediates. Explore different skills and techniques, working at your own pace. Cost -£6 per lesson. 07796 083042 (between 5 - 8pm)

To 16 December, 2pm - 4pm
Kingsclere Village Hall

ART CLASSES (MONDAYS)

Drawing and painting with one to one tuition from Bethany Milam. Suitable for both beginners and intermediates. Explore different skills and techniques, working at your own pace. Cost -£6 per lesson. Helen 07796 083042 (between 5 - 8pm)

To 3 December, 7pm - 9pm
Everest Community Academy, Basingstoke

AUTHENTIC INDIAN COOKERY COURSE

Come and join a fun and easy cookery course, and impress your friends and family with your newly acquired culinary skills of Britain's favourite cuisine!

This is 10 week course where you will learn about the various Indian spices, herbs and cooking techniques and prepare authentic Indian dishes and snacks - all under the supervision of a very skilled tutor, who has more than 15 years of teaching experience. 7.00pm - 9.00pm 10 Week Course - £150.00. 7941554108

18 October, 8pm
The Forge, Basingstoke

CATFISH KEITH

Cutting-edge blues singer, songwriter and bottleneck slide guitarist Catfish Keith has established himself as one of the most exciting country blues performers of our time. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

18 October, 7:45pm
The Anvil, Basingstoke

VAMPIRES ROCK

Steve Steinman plays the supremely evil Baron Von Rockula owner of the Live and Let Die club. In search of a new bride the Baron must convince the unsuspecting Pandora, who auditions for the new singing position, to cross over to the dark

side and live for ever in rock 'n' roll hell. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

18 October - 19 October, 7:45pm
St. John's Hall, West End Road, Mortimer Common

KINDLY KEEP IT COVERED

This comedy is a real laugh out loud production with lines and situations that will have you stitches. 0118 933 2583

18 October, Weybrook Park Golf Club

The Steve Summers Band

GOOD FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 7PM WITH THE MUSIC FROM 9PM. 01256 320347

19 October, 7:30pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

AN ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH AL STEWART

Stewart came to stardom as part of the legendary British folk revival in the sixties and seventies, and developed his own style of combining folk-rock songs with delicately woven tales of the great characters and events from history. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

20 October, 8pm

The Anvil, Basingstoke

PAUL MERTON'S IMPRO CHUMS

Based entirely on their own finely honed improvisational skills and an almost manic compulsion to show off, along with suggestions from the audience that evening. Paul and his 'ÄoChums' will perform a one-off show that will never be repeated again. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

20 October, 3pm

AWE William Penney Theatre

AFTERNOON CONCERT

Come and enjoy a selection of favourite 'Light' music across the decades. Ian House plays 'Live' his Electronic Organ;

(The instrument that can play every other instrument there is - all at the touch of a button! Interval, raffle, etc. -£6.50. 0118 9323971

21 October - 22 October, 7pm
The Haymarket

SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

Each evening, four schools will perform four different Shakespeare plays. This year, the participating schools are Trinity School & Performing Arts College, Kennet School, Kempshott Junior, Park View Junior,

Rucstall Primary School, Testbourne Community School, The Wavell School and Aldworth School. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

22 October, 7:30pm
Silchester Village Hall

AUDITIONS FOR ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES

We need actors of varying ages to help deliver another outstanding pantomime, plus an adult chorus, a junior chorus and a pantomime camel. 0118 9819134

23 October - 24 October, 7:30pm
The Haymarket

AS YOU LIKE IT

Directed by Douglas Rintoul, this popular favourite among William Shakespeare's comedies sees Rosalind, banished from her homeland, journey into the wild depths of the forest to find her exiled father. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

24 October, 7:45pm
The Anvil

THE NATIONAL YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

NYJO features 22 musicians and vocalists from around the country, most of whom go on to become professional musicians. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

25 October

The Raven Hotel, Hook

A NIGHT OF MEDIUMSHIP WITH A DIFFERENCE

If you're looking fun, laughter and a roller coaster of emotions, then these nights are for you. Tickets -£10 + -£1 booking fee. 07539 557942 www.psychicevents4all.co.uk

25 October - 26 October, 7:45pm
St. John's Hall, West End Road, Mortimer

KINDLY KEEP IT COVERED

This comedy is a real laugh out loud production with lines and situations that will have you stitches. 0118 933 2583

25 October, 8:15pm
The Forge

SHLOMO HUMAN GEEKBOX

Since taking up beatboxing in 2002, Shlomo has won global acclaim and worked with some of the biggest names including Bjork, Damon Albarn, Jarvis Cocker, Martha Wainwright, Imogen Heap, The Specials, DJ Yoda and Bill Bailey. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

25 October, 7:30pm
The Haymarket

JULIE MADLY DEEPLY

Adored by millions, Dame Julie Andrews is a genuine legend of entertainment. But does Mary Poppins ever long to let her hair down at the end of a hard day?

Naomi House Tea Party & Craft Fayre

Why not join us for a tea party in aid of Naomi House from **2pm-5pm on Sunday 20th October** at Old Basing Village Hall?

Entry is £2.50 and includes a cup of tea and a delicious homemade cake, a chance to look round a lovely selection of craft stalls and a raffle with some exclusive prizes.

All proceeds to Naomi House and Jacksplace hospices for children and young adults with life limiting conditions from across Hampshire.



For more information check out the Naomi House website
www.naomihouse.org.uk

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Entertainment

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Does Maria Von Trapp ever wish she was called sexy instead of saccharine? Find out in this cheeky yet affectionate cabaret with the award-winning singer, West End actress and Fascinating Aida star Sarah-Louise Young.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

26 October - 26 October, 8pm - 12am
Rucstall Community Center
HALLOWEEN PARTY IN AID OF ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE
Come join us for our second charity party night with proceeds going to St Michael's Hospice. With the awesome band Back2Funk and legendary DJ Leroy Wilson, Adults -£5.00 Children Free! Available from The Rucstall Club Bar
or email: Funk.band@ntlworld.com
01256 354813

26 October, The Anvil
The Sleeping Beauty - Moscow Ballet La Classique
2.30PM AND 7.30PM.
TCHAIKOVSKY'S SUMPTUOUS MUSIC FILLS THE AIR AND WONDROUS CHARACTERS COME TO LIFE BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES. FAIRYTALE CHARACTERS ABOUND ALONGSIDE A KING, A QUEEN, GOOD AND EVIL FAIRIES PLUS, OF COURSE, A HANDSOME PRINCE, ALL WEAVING THEIR MAGIC TO PRESENT THIS TIMELESS TALE OF PRINCESS AURORA, THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

26 October, 7pm - 9:30pm
Brookvale Village Hall, Lower Brook Street, RG21 7RU
FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY
A fancy dress party families. We'll have a disco and activities for all ages. Bring your own drinks. Fancy dress. All anything you like.

A prize for the best one! -£3 per ticket, 2 and under free (but still need a ticket).
01256 324313 or email pam.mansfield@brookvale.org.uk

29 October, 7pm
The Haymarket
CENTRALLY HEATED KNICKERS
This compelling new production of adventures in science and sound is performed by legendary children's poet and former Children's Laureate Michael Rosen, with songs, grooves and flights of musical fancy from The Home-made Orchestra.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

30 October, 7:30pm
The Anvil, Basingstoke
RAF SALUTE TO THE DAMBUSTERS GENERATION CONCERT
A stirring musical programme reflecting the indomitable spirit from which such audacious missions as the Dambusters raid were conceived.
01256 844 244

31 October - 2 November, The Haymarket
Aliens Love Underpants
THIS ZANY AND HILARIOUS TALE IS BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING CHILDREN'S BOOK BY CLAIRE FREEDMAN AND BEN CORT, ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY ADAM BAMPTON-SMITH.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

31 October - 2 November, Central Studio Queen Mary's College
Alice in Wonderland
PROTEUS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE BRINGING THEIR TRADEMARK FUSION OF MUSIC, PHYSICAL THEATRE, CIRCUS AND PUPPETRY CREATING AN ANARCHIC, MAGICAL

AND MAD-AS-A-HATTER VERSION OF LEWIS CARROLL'S CLASSIC TALES 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND' AND 'ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS'.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

1 November, 7:45pm
The Anvil
ERIC BIBB
An Eric Bibb performance is an enriching experience, both musically and spiritually. Giving his audiences songs from a beautifully realised repertoire of soulful, gospel-infused folk blues, he has no problem melding a traditional rootsy American style with a subtle contemporary sensibility.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

2 November, 7:45pm
The Anvil
THE HOLLIES
Along with the Beatles and the Stones, this band helped shape the world of pop and rock as we know it today, and recently The Hollies were honoured by the prestigious American Rock n' Roll Hall Of Fame. 'A' For their Impact on the Evolution, Development, and Perpetuation of Rock n' Roll'.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

2 November, 7:30pm - 11:45pm
Crown Lane, Old Basing
THE ROCKIN' RAZORS
plus Record Hop with DJ Stompin' Steve. Membership Drive, New Members Welcome. -£10 on the door.
Steve 07904931161

2 November, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Basingstoke Discovery Centre
POSTCARD PRINTMAKING
A creative workshop giving an introduction to collagraph printing using collaged materials. You will be shown how to transfer the images into relief and use the textures to enhance the print. -£4
01256 478670

3 November, 12pm - 2pm
Basingstoke Discovery Centre
MASSAGE FOR WOMEN
Discover how massage can assist women's health and wellbeing by learning simple massage strokes involving the back and neck. -£6
01256 478670

5 November, 8:15pm
The Forge
ROD PICOTT
Lauded for his narrative and melodic songwriting, passionate delivery and darkly humorous onstage storytelling, Picott has had his songs covered by Ray Wylie Hubbard, Slaid Cleaves and Fred Eaglesmith among others. But it's his brilliant stage show and his instant rapport with his audience that sets this Maine wordsmith apart from the rest. Rod's songs tackle important subjects and stand up there with the very best compositions of the past twenty years.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

7 November, Farnham, Maltings
As You Like It
DIRECTED BY DOUGLAS RINTOUL, THIS POPULAR FAVOURITE AMONG WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDIES SEES ROSALIND, BANISHED FROM HER HOMETOWN, JOURNEY INTO THE WILD DEPTHS OF THE FOREST TO FIND HER EXILED FATHER.
01252 745444

7 November, 7:45pm
The Anvil
BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Bartok's late piano concerto is the most lyrical of his three, with a hymn-like slow movement interrupted by the sounds of the countryside at night, and a vigorous, Hungarian-flavoured finale.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 November, 7:30pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College

ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC NIGHT
Come along to play or just come to hear some of the most talented musicians in Basingstoke. Everybody welcome, from professionals to first time performers. Bar available. Free parking available.
www.centralstudio.co.uk

8 November, 7:30pm
The Anvil
BILL WYMAN'S RHYTHM

KINGS
Rock and roll icon, author, restaurateur, legendary former Rolling Stones bassist Wyman has seen it all and continues to live life to the full. His musical rebirth as the driving force behind the fabulous Rhythm Kings has taken him back to his musical roots. This set of virtuoso musicians superbly bring back to life the kind of classic rhythm and blues that first inspired Wyman to pick up the guitar as a

The Night Before Christmas

28 Nov - 8 Dec
The Haymarket
Basingstoke

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Box Office: 01256 844 244
www.anvilarts.org.uk

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Thursday 14th November

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Puzzles

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

		8	6			1		5
9			8		2	7		
6		4	7	9			2	
	7			8	5		4	1
	4	9				5	3	
	1		9	4			8	
				1	8	4		9
		2	5		3			6
1		5			9	2		

5								8
6	3						2	9
	9		2		7		4	
		4	7	5	3	2		
		5	8	6	1	9		
	1		4		9		6	
3	2						8	1
4								2

2							3	8
		6		1				9
					7		6	
		8		6		2		
			7		5			
		5		3		4		
	7		5					
9				2		6		
3	8							1

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 1 Very hungry (8)
- 4 Pace (4)
- 8 Part of the foot (6)
- 10 Refer to (6)
- 11 Rub out (5)
- 12 Strainer (5)
- 14 Fortification (6)
- 17 Shapes of the moon (9)
- 18 Gem (9)
- 22 Landing place of Noah's Ark (6)
- 23 Viewpoint (5)
- 24 Send back (5)
- 26 Petitioned (6)
- 27 Lobster claw (6)
- 28 Sea eagle (4)
- 29 Showing respect (8)

Quick Clues Down

- 1 Blonde (4)
- 2 Design of pieces of stone (6)
- 3 Covering for the arm (6)
- 5 Has confidence in (6)
- 6 Goes in front (8)
- 7 Spotless (5)
- 9 Introduced (9)
- 10 Find out (9)
- 13 Mistake (5)
- 15 Hurt (5)
- 16 Climb, crawl with hands and feet (8)
- 18 Edge (6)
- 19 Equipped with oars (5)
- 20 Punctual (2,4)
- 21 Pass (6)
- 25 Impudent child (4)
- 21 Increase (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 Hobo showed the way to be crushed underfoot (8)
- 4 Just a ray of light can produce a point of brightness (4)
- 8 Russian tyrant exposed in just a linen shirt! (6)
- 10 Hides the coats (6)
- 11 Is it excellent to begin to sleep in church? (5)
- 12 Begin to be a person (5)
- 14 Making a mistake by hesitating in front of the circle (6)
- 17 Ma, this act could lead to a condition of suffering (9)
- 18 The pirate sounds as if he'd give a dollar on ear (9)
- 22 Fantastic that the United Nations should be concerned with Capone (6)
- 23 Come in from his recent errand (5)
- 24 The king's inside but will break out (5)
- 26 In return, exclude the accounts of the Egyptian charm (6)
- 27 Is back fast, and without speaking (6)
- 28 Medicine does make a change (4)
- 29 Open and not led round the water (8)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 1 Throw into the ship (4)
- 2 A confused enthusiasm to take a flower ... (6)
- 3 ... as adaptable as the one I am surrounded with? (6)
- 5 It's not funny to tease someone in their affliction (6)
- 6 Withdrew from the club - or joined again (8)
- 7 Ready for the signal (5)
- 9 Where the workers cannot be employed on a daily basis (5,4)
- 10 The lesser can achieve brightness (9)
- 13 Publish the result (5)
- 15 Fasten securely as the fifth tier is broken (5)
- 16 Ill-fated account employed about a rich leader (8)
- 18 Chances of fractures (6)
- 19 The secret society of one graduate in a hundred and fifty (5)
- 20 All show anger after about ten (6)
- 21 Cancel the order for the bells to chime again (6)
- 25 A group of horses would disturb the dust (4)

1		2		3					4	5		6
							7					
8					9		10					
				11								
	12		13				14		15			
16		17										
			18		19				20		21	
22							23					
				24								25
26							27					
28						29						

Scribble space

Last week's solutions

1	9	4	6	7	3	5	2	8
6	8	5	1	9	2	7	4	3
2	7	3	4	5	8	6	9	1
9	1	6	8	3	5	2	7	4
8	4	2	7	6	9	1	3	5
5	3	7	2	4	1	9	8	6
3	2	1	9	8	6	4	5	7
4	5	9	3	1	7	8	6	2
7	6	8	5	2	4	3	1	9

9	2	1	3	7	6	5	4	8
6	5	7	2	4	8	9	1	3
4	8	3	9	1	5	2	7	6
3	1	2	7	5	9	8	6	4
8	7	9	6	3	4	1	5	2
5	4	6	1	8	2	3	9	7
7	6	8	5	2	1	4	3	9
1	3	4	8	9	7	6	2	5
2	9	5	4	6	3	7	8	1

4	6	8	1	9	7	5	2	3
5	2	3	4	8	6	1	7	9
7	1	9	2	3	5	6	4	8
3	4	1	9	6	8	7	5	2
9	5	6	7	2	4	8	3	1
2	8	7	5	1	3	9	6	4
1	7	5	8	4	2	3	9	6
6	9	4	3	5	1	2	8	7
8	3	2	6	7	9	4	1	5

Quick Crossword

Across: 4 Shirks 8 Expands 9 Sparta 10 Readjusts
11 Else 13 Stole 14 Delayed 16 Aniseed 18 Snout
19 Stop 21 Recessing 22 Elixir 23 Spilled 24 Theses
Down: 1 Expectant 2 Handclasp 3 Odium 5 Hops
6 Rarely 7 Stared 9 Steer 11 Earnestly 12 Sequences
15 Never 16 Ascent 17 Iodine 20 Heaps 21 Rise

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 4 Bronze 8 Pimpled 9 Padded 10 Depressed
11 Flee 13 Stops 14 Garrets 16 Oversee 18 Merit
19 Next 21 Anecdotal 22 Opaque 23 Readily 24 Radial
Down: 1 Directive 2 Spare part 3 Least 5 Read
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Beale Park is going a bit batty this October!



OCTOBER 2013

BEALE Park, at Lower Basildon in Berkshire, is offering a variety of additional activities to entertain the children this October, with an Autumn Trail, Junior Keeper Sessions and a Bat Box Building Workshop, as our younger visitors are encouraged to go a bit batty!

And, for the less adventurous, the Park will be hosting a Gift Event for

customers to enjoy gift shopping away from the high street.

Activities Include:

Batty Autumn Trail: There's great fun in store for all the family with a "Batty Autumn Trail". For just 50p you can enter the bat themed trail and prize draw to win some fantastic prizes. Just look for the clues which are dotted around the Park.

Bat Box Building Day: Following the success of the school holiday's

Butterfly Feeder and Bug Hotel Building Days, the Conservation Team is back and ready for action - offering youngsters the chance to build a bat box for their garden visitors.

So, if you fancy having a batty half hour, join us in the Park on Wednesday 30th October 2013, and build your own box! The drop in session will run from 11am to 2pm, for a nominal fee of £5 a box

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WIN goodies with FRONTLINE® Spot On

A new survey by Frontline® Spot On has revealed that Britain is a nation of dog lovers who invest huge amounts of time and money on ensuring the welfare of their dogs. The average spent on dogs over their lifetime amounts to £12,000. Additionally, dog owners spend a wealth of time on their pets, petting them over 58,000 times in their lifetime and walking them a lengthy 7,361 miles. And how do dogs reciprocate their love? With 49,664 licks, of course.

Despite all of this pampering by owners, Frontline® has found that as many as one in three ticks on pooches carry disease and almost half of pet owners have previously seen a tick on their pet, with dogs often picking them up from grassy areas in both woodland and urban areas. It is believed that the recent relaxed Pet Travel Scheme rules may have resulted in the increased

import of foreign ticks, which has further raised alarm among pet owners, with half (49%) being worried about ticks and the diseases they carry.

So, educating owners on pet health is more imperative than ever, which is why Frontline® Spot On has introduced the 'Be Tick Aware' campaign. A third of the pesky parasites have been found to carry infectious diseases, which not only affect dogs but humans too. The most common disease spread by ticks is Lyme disease, which has seen cases in humans increase by 300% since the year 2000. Many owners are unaware of the fact that ticks are second only to mosquitos globally in carrying

infectious- and sometimes deadly diseases.

For more info about ticks and fleas go to uk.frontline.com

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Vauxhall's SUV crossover

THE Mokka marks Vauxhall's entry into the rapidly expanding compact SUV crossover class, already inhabited by the Nissan Juke, Skoda Yeti, Peugeot 2008 and Renault Captur. Unlike these rivals, Mokka actually looks more like a traditional SUV (albeit a very small one).

There are four trim levels: S, Exclusive, SE and Tech Line. Standard on all Mokkas is a comprehensive package of safety systems, including Electronic Stability Control, Hill Start Assist and Hill Descent Control.

The Mokka also comes with the option of four-wheel drive. It's a temporary adaptive system that sees 50% of drive go to the rear wheels when there's a loss of traction.

It's a punchy unit, providing 300 Nm of torque between 2000-2500 rpm. Only when revs fall below 1500 rpm does the motor feel a bit sluggish and a long second gear means it can be easy

REVIEW: VAUXHALL MOKKA

By Philip Shoulder

@writeonmotoring

to stall, although the slick six-speed manual box makes changing gear a breeze. What's harder to overlook is the diesel engine's inherent gruffness. Around town it sounds like a delivery van, although quiets down at speed. Road noise is pretty well suppressed, but the suspension can thump and clunk over larger urban bumps and ruts.

Although undeniably a capable enough steer, the Mokka doesn't feel as agile or surefooted as the Nissan Juke or Skoda Yeti. However, there's no denying the diesel motor's frugality: we easily achieved between 50-60 mpg.

Once seated in the Mokka's lofty cabin, you're treated to a comfortable driving position that gives a commanding view of the

road and decent front and side vision, helped by large door mirrors. Rear vision isn't so good – hindered by a high waist line.

There's stacks of headroom and also plentiful legroom for front and rear occupants, along with 19 different storage locations and a 362 litre boot. Cabin switchgear is familiar Astra/Insignia fare and aside from a rather button heavy centre console, both quality and ergonomics cannot really be faulted. The satnav's interface and navigation commands are clear as well, although like many systems, some new roads weren't recognised.

Verdict:

This is an attractively packaged and priced compact SUV crossover. It's not without merit, boasting good performance and economy, decent equipment and a spacious, functional cabin, but driving dynamics are off class best, as is diesel engine refinement.



• Vauxhall Mokka



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KINGSIZE mattress, Sealy Kingsize firm mattress in excellent condition., £20, 07717772095

BOB The Builder Bicycle, Brand New Never been Used Childs Bicycle up to 6 years old Similar to those in Argos of Fireman Sam selling for £90, 40, 07831947754

CAR Seat From Birth, Brand New Never Been Used, £25, 07831947754

COFFEE set, 6 cups and saucers, £6, 07967305362

DOG lead, Extending dog lead, £8, 07967305362

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NEW Dancing shoes, Ladies dancing shoes UK size 5 EU size 37 in Gold, £12, 07967305362

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VINTAGE Shoes, 1930s Silver over Kid leather. Size 4ish., £20 ono, 01256 0357866

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Bison maul Tigers, but lose next day

BASINGSTOKE Bison had a mixed weekend in the English Premier Ice Hockey League, with a 5-2 win over Telford Tigers followed by a 5-4 defeat to Peterborough Phantoms.

Two goals from Joe Miller helped the Bison to an important home win, which was backed up by a goal and two assists from man of the match Kurt Reynolds.

Telford had taken the lead two minutes into the game courtesy of Gareth O'Flaherty, although Bison quickly got back in front and were in control from then on.

Sunday's game was a tougher affair, as the Phantoms took an early two-goal lead with scoring coming from Eric Piatek and Frantisek Zubek.

Miller pulled one back for Bison in the second period, with Joe Rand getting an equaliser before Piatek and Marcel Petran were able to restore Peterborough's two-goal cushion.

A goal for both teams followed, and a late Rand effort gave Bison hope in the closing stages, but the Phantoms were able to hold on for the win.

Next up for Bison is a home match against Manchester Phoenix on Saturday, followed by an away trip to Bracknell Bees on Sunday and a trip to face Sheffield Steeldogs on Tuesday.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact the Newsdesk on **01235 516930**

or email news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Hartley manager 'over the moon' after late cup glory

HARTLEY Wintney player-manager Ben Dillon said he and his players were "over the moon" after their sensational FA Cup third qualifying round win over Clevedon on Monday.

Sam Argent fired home a 96th-minute penalty to secure a 4-3 win for the Row, setting up a fourth qualifying round tie with Grays Athletic or Daventry.

Argent's penalty, his second of the game, completed a dramatic fightback from Hartley, who found themselves 2-0 down at half-time and 3-1 after an hour.

"At half-time we were 2-0 down, and we weren't at the races,"

By **James Booker**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

said Dillon. "We needed at kick up the backside."

"But we came out at the second half and proved what we are all about. We are over the moon with the result."

"We asked the ref how long was left, and he said '20 seconds', so we knew it was [going through] or facing extra time and penalties."

"It was nerve-wracking, but when it hit the net it was just an unbelievable buzz."

It is the latest twist in a remarkable story for Hartley, who found themselves rooted to the bottom of the Combined Counties Premier less than a year ago.

However, after some heavy recruiting, they embarked on a terrific run in the second half of the season, and dramatically avoided relegation.

They have since kicked on, and find themselves very much in the promotion mix this time around.

Dillon, who took over the managerial reins from Dave Tuttle at the end of September 2012, says the change is terrific, but it's what the club set out to do.

"It's not a massive shock to us, because that's what we set out to do," he said. "But the club is buzzing - we've literally turned it round."

"Now we're one of the better teams in the league, which we knew we had the potential to be anyway."

"We're on course in the league, and everything is really good."

Hartley are in action on Saturday against Petersfield in the first round of the FA Vase.

Dillon added the club are assessing knee injuries to Jack Coventry and Carl Saunders ahead of this weekend's fixture.

Sport Bites

Joy for Croker and his team

BASINGSTOKE RFC claimed their first win of the season on Saturday, with a 33-31 victory away to Guernsey after coming from 10 points behind.

Going into the final 10 minutes of the game, Basingstoke's Ryan Davis and Karl Buttle scored vital tries that lifted the team off the bottom of the National Three London table.

They next face bottom-side Thurrock on Saturday, where a win could take Basingstoke out of the relegation zone.

Five on the spin

WHITCHURCH United picked up another three points on Saturday, following their 2-1 home victory against Verwood Town.

The result leaves Whitchurch 10th in the Wessex League Premier Division with 20 points after 13 games, 10 behind league leaders Newport.

They are next in action on Tuesday, with a home tie against Andover Town in the North Hampshire Senior Cup.

Tadley lose out

TADLEY Calleva have dropped to ninth in the Wessex League First Division, following a 1-0 loss against Andover New Street on Saturday.

The result was Calleva's third defeat of the season in eight games, and the North Hampshire outfit sit on 11 points, seven behind league leaders Andover Town.

Calleva play again on Saturday, with a trip to seventh-placed Stockbridge.

No luck for Foster and Collard as BTCC season ends



• Nick Foster had nowhere to go trying to avoid team-mate Colin Turkington's backwards-facing BMW (Picture courtesy of btcc.net)

ROB Collard encountered more bad luck in the final race of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) season on Sunday, held at Brands Hatch.

Contact with Aron Smith caused Collard to spin on lap two of the second race, putting him at the back of the field before recovering to finish 14th.

A seventh and eighth-place finish in race one and three meant that he scored consistent points, and moved up a spot to 13th in the BTCC standings, with 140 points.

He said: "Race one was where we expected to be in terms of the result, but then to be hit in race two is the story

of my season."

"I knew at the start of the year that it wasn't going to be easy this year with a new car, but we've been on the pace in the final rounds which is promising for the future."

Meanwhile, Nick Foster had a frustrating day after colliding with team-mate Colin Turkington in race one, and

finishing 18th and 16th in races two and three.

He said: "Overall it's been a hard season and while I've not managed to get what I wanted in terms of the end result, I've really enjoyed the challenge."

Foster finished 15th in the final standings, with 98 points.

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Inside: Hartley manager 'over the moon' after late cup glory | Bison maul Tigers, but lose next day

BOSS - THAT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE

Havant defeat angers Bristow

JASON Bristow did not mince his words after a bad first-half display saw them lose 4-1 to Havant and Waterloooville on Saturday.

Kezie Ibe's second half strike was little consolation for the Dragons, who are now without a win in six Skrill South games.

"It wasn't the fact we played badly as such, it was the fact that we didn't turn up," said Bristow.

"Havant were first to every ball, and we didn't even get chance to win the second balls.

"It wasn't good enough, and not acceptable by our standards.

"We gave the players a stern talking-to at half-time and they came out and responded in the right way in the second half.

"But by then it was too late - and we can't really say that 'it was good to see a response', because it shouldn't have got to that situation in the first place."

"Once again, we got into good positions, but we gave the ball away too cheaply, and when we did give the ball away, we didn't react in the right way to win it back.

"It was a frustrating and very disappointing afternoon."

Bristow added that he would be making changes for Saturday's

By James Booker

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

home game against Boreham Wood, and no member of the team, "one through to 11", is guaranteed to start.

"There will certainly be some changes - I don't think we can accept the performance levels we got on Saturday.

"From one through to 11 there can be no-one who will justify their place in the team at the weekend."

On the plus side, the Dragons have no new injuries worries ahead of Saturday's game, and Bristow is hoping midfielder Simon Dunn will make a return following a knee problem.

Jordace Holder-Spooner is the only long-term absentee as he recovers from a dislocated shoulder.

The Dragons are now 13th in the league.

Defender Ross Adams, who has found first-team opportunities so far this season, has been loaned out to Chippenham Town.

Meanwhile, young ex-Barnet striker Ryan Debatista, who has been training with Basingstoke for several weeks, has signed professional terms.



Havant and Waterloooville 4
Basingstoke Town 1

• Basingstoke slipped to a 4-1 defeat at Havant and Waterloooville on Saturday (Picture by Jill Chase)

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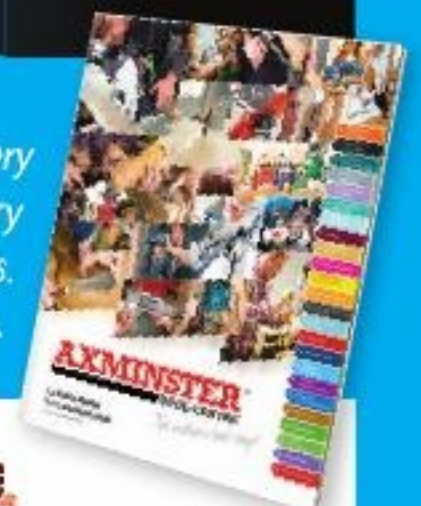
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